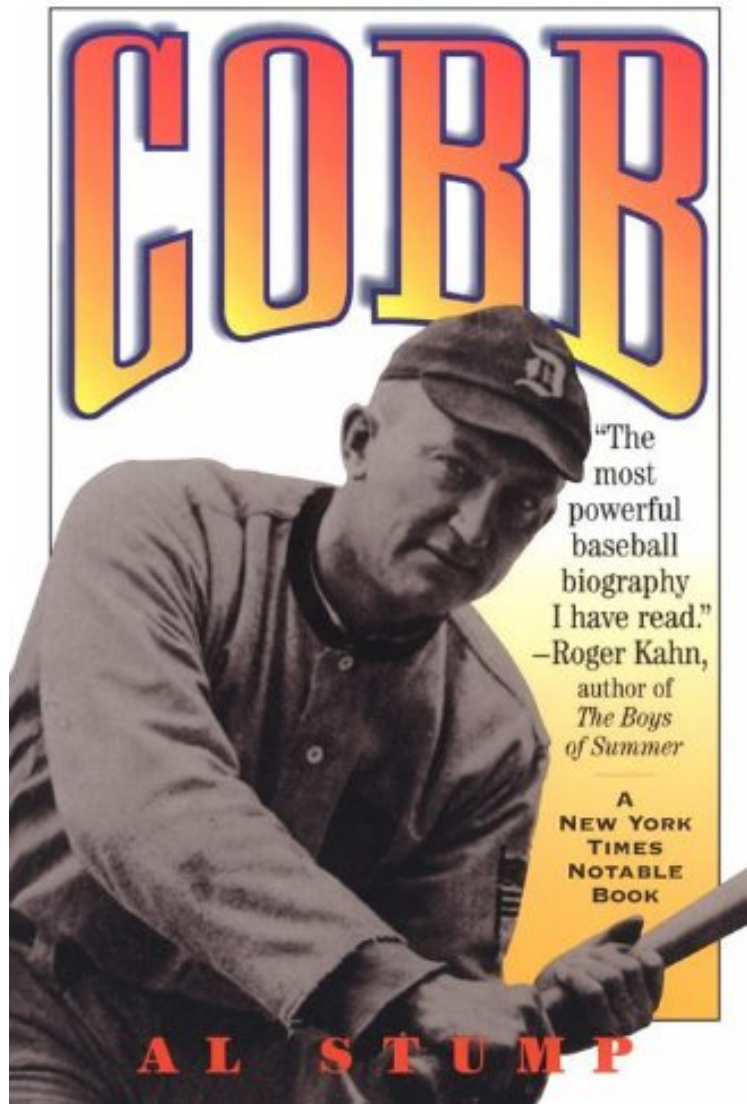


(Download free ebook) Cobb: A Biography (English Edition)

Cobb: A Biography (English Edition)

Von Al Stump

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Von Al Stump : Cobb: A Biography (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cobb: A Biography (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great Book About the Most Interesting Player EverVon Weston J. KathmanTy Cobb wasn't the best player who ever lived -- that honor goes to Babe Ruth -- but he was the most interesting player and arguably the most frightening man who ever set foot on a ballfield. Because their eras overlapped, Cobb and Ruth are often compared to each other. Writer Paul Gallico, though, felt it was unreasonable to compare the two great players, saying in a quote that appears in the

prologue of Stump's Cobb, "Fans and the sporting press are always trying to compare Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth. This is absurd since they are incomparable, like trying to draw a comparison between an elephant and a wolf. Beloved Babe was a man of simple makeup, savage Cobb was a mass of paradoxes with a life that reads like a Gothic horror tale." Gallico may have oversimplified the characteristics of the Babe, but he hit the nail on the head with Cobb. Ruth was a slightly better hitter and probably would have made the Hall of Fame as a pitcher if his bat hadn't made it necessary to play him everyday in the outfield. Ruth also had a better arm obviously, but Cobb was a much better baserunner, had more speed on defense, and probably caused opponents more anxiety, despite his lack of power, than even the dangerous bat of Ruth. Both men dominated their eras and could singlehandedly conquer other teams. Ruth often won his battles by sheer strength (homeruns) while Cobb often triumphed through the adept use of psychology (scaring the hell out of his opponents). Although I would probably rather have Ruth on my team (but not by much), I prefer Cobb's style of playing because it is more scientific and far more disciplined. Both men were memorable characters both on and off the field. Whereas Ruth's flaws (binge drinking and eating, carousing, etc.) are often overlooked, the shortcomings of Cobb (selfishness, racism, an extreme tendency towards violence, etc.) are always mentioned when people discuss his career and life away from baseball. Many people believe that he was insane and the evidence seems to show that he at least had severe mental problems. The amazing thing about Cobb is that he probably had to put up with as much trouble as he caused -- sometimes due to his own awful behavior -- and still managed to have what is either the second or third best baseball career of all time. It would be hard to argue that this man wasn't a genius. He understood psychology and how to use it on a ballfield better than any other player who ever lived and he had the foresight to buy into Coca-Cola and General Motors before either company had begun to flourish. As a result of his brilliant stock purchases, his worth at the time of his death was estimated to be 12 million dollars. Though his life was far from the idealistic fairy tales that are often told about the so-called "golden ages" of baseball, Ty Cobb makes for an incredibly intriguing biographical subject. Because author Stump knew Cobb personally, he writes a revealing account of Cobb's finest moments and his darkest hours. This is certainly not a feel-good story, but it is one that nobody should miss.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent
Von Ein Kunde
Stump brings to life Ty Cobb, the most interesting player in baseball history. Perfect companion to the more plain facts Charles Alexander biography of Cobb; Stump does a more thorough job explaining Cobb's unusual personality. Among other things, Cobb was neurotic, paranoid, egocentric and very selfish. Calling him prickly or sandpapery does no justice to explaining him. In an era in which most of his peers had at least a touch of bigotry, Cobb's hatred of blacks was unnerving to them and to others. Stump does a better job than Alexander in explaining the possible sources of Cobb's neurosis- his mother's "manslaughter" of his father when Cobb was 20 and about to go up to the Big Show in Detroit; the inordinately vicious hazing he received from the older Tiger players because he was Southern and they were Northerners and Midwesterners for the most part (Remember, Cobb joined the Tigers only 40 years after Appomattox. Even today, my experience with my Ohio father-in-law is one in which Midwesterners haughtily think Southrons like me to be low-lives. We are not close.) Three positive things about Cobb come to mind in Stump's work. First, Cobb planted the seeds for the end of the pillar of sport's serfdom-the reserve clause-thus initiating free agency. Second, no player was more intelligent, on or off the field. Third, no player had more drive than Cobb. Ironically, he compares well to the equally driven Michael Jordan.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Greatest
Baseball Player of All Time Lived at Extremes
Von Tim R. Niles
Not much of a shock for that. So did Ruth. So do all the greats. It is inevitable.

I read the original Stump biography in 1962, when I was twelve, before I'd even had the opportunity to steal a base (Little League rules might as well make this illegal) or given much thought to the mental aspect of baseball. That book did exactly what Cobb intended: teach people how baseball should be played, and note his own variations - like holding the bat with hands separated. He did attempt to whitewash his past with that book, but the main goal was to present a study of baseball. A book by Cobb on how to play was important because only he really could excel at all aspects of the game (pitching aside.) Ted Williams wrote a great book on the science of hitting, but to my knowledge he stole a base very few times, and never analyzed fielding with any depth or effectiveness. I was able to put the information in the original biography to use the next summer, and found Cobb's ideas and methods (split grip aside) to be a tremendous resource. I wasn't using the psychotic attitude but just the techniques and approaches that he had detailed. There were times when it was simply magic: to take what he had written and use it! Cobb had noted that on a long fly ball, it is possible to turn your back and run toward the place where you expect the ball to be... and catch it over the shoulder rather than looking over the shoulder constantly (which slows the pursuit) and I did that. He taught how to watch pitchers and note when they were going to make a move to a base, or simply pitch... and I used that (let me tell you, there is NOTHING like stealing second and third against a 15 year old pitcher when you are 13 - and about a foot shorter.) He taught how to tell what a pitcher was likely to throw my little mannerisms associated with certain pitches and I used that. He taught how to bunt, how to analyze the grass length and the gradient of the third/first base line, how to note the direction a pitcher comes off the mound to make a bunt more successful, how to hold the bat and make contact. He talked about how to run around the bases (using the inside of the bases to shorten the distance AND as a way to plant the foot while making a turn.) If the timing was right, I could kick a ball out of a baseman's glove with an ease - due totoally to reading his book - that made it seem impossible that it

was not accidental (deliberate was sometimes considered illegal, and an out.) That book was simply loaded with data which could be used to play the game. It gave me such a massive advantage while playing the game of baseball, I decided that books could be massively advantageous as a tool to learn about other fields as well. That book was the first connection I'd had between thinking about something - without a human teacher, or coach, or mentor - and applying those thoughts, at least in a direct way. Useful, applicable information existed in books AND you could progress at your own speed, rather than waiting for everyone in a class or on a team to catch up. It was a stunning revelation for someone of my age. In fact, in the late Fifties to mid-Sixties, my childhood, I did a lot of reading related to sports. The sports bios in those days were much more dense with sports information and stated very little about how much money a player made or how much sex they had or how well known they were. The focus was on the game, which is where boys - who were expected to be athletes by that society - wanted it. Our athletic heroes motivated us with their excellence on the field, not with extraneous garbage. In the process of reading about them and their sports, we became better readers and more thoughtful people. Still, I must admit, when I crushed a pitch thrown by a very fast pitcher - this was at age 15 - which looked the size of a golf ball, seemed to be moving around, and was HISSING at me... the feeling of power as it launched from my bat was enormous, just unbelievable. It was moving away from my bat like it had been launched by NASA. Unfortunately, age 15 was the year my baseball 'career' ended because my high school had no baseball team (although I would make that a part of my platform when I ran for student body president; a team was created two years later) and there was no other outlet for high school ball players in my area. The movie (based on this book) was not much of a shock to me. This book is well written, but without the original bio, you miss what truly made Ty Cobb the great baseball player: his brain. His motives might have been locked in the horror of his mother (or her 'lover') killing his father, or some weird desire to excel in a field which was radically far afield from those of his relatives, and it may have been fueled by all the twisted Southern hatreds that have filled plays and novels for the last 150 years... but it didn't affect his ability to play the game or to analyze it logically. "Cobb" without the original is "insufficient data." The original bio accomplished its goals more than Cobb himself would ever know, and I think this book (and the movie) accomplished its goals as well. This book does for Stump what he felt guilty about for thirty years; he needn't have bothered. He, too, accomplished more than he could have known.

Kurzbeschreibung A New York Times Notable Book; Spitzball Award for Best Baseball Book of 1994; Basis for a major Hollywood motion picture. Now in paperback, the biography that baseball fans all across the country have been talking about. Al Stump redefined America's perception of one of its most famous sports heroes with this gripping look at a man who walked the line between greatness and psychosis. Based on Stump's interviews with Ty Cobb while ghostwriting the Hall-of-Famer's 1961 autobiography, this award-winning new account of Cobb's life and times reveals both the darkness and the brilliance of the "Georgia Peach." "The most powerful baseball biography I have read."--Roger Kahn, author of THE BOYS OF SUMMER